

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

September 10, 1981

POLAND: Militant Proposals Considered at Party Congress

Militants at the Solidarity congress continue to urge the delegates to adopt politically sensitive declarations. [REDACTED]

The aggressive Warsaw chapter submitted a resolution calling for free parliamentary elections, and a delegate from Gdansk asked the congress to delete the reference to the "leading role" of the party in the union charter. The congress first rejected the latter proposal but then agreed to consider it. [REDACTED]

While some of this activity represents a venting of pent-up frustrations and grievances, the longer the first session of the congress continues in such a militant vein, the harder it will be for the moderates to turn the tide during the coming two-week break. Moderates hope to focus attention during the break on a small number of issues that still hold some prospect for negotiated settlement. [REDACTED]

An official from Solidarity told [REDACTED] that the congress' pledge of support for other labor activists in Eastern Europe was not intended as a provocation but was a response to a message from Soviet "free trade unionists." Solidarity subsequently released the text of a letter from the "Founding Committee of the USSR's Free Trade Unions," praising Solidarity and pledging "all possible" help. A so-called "free trade union movement" has existed in the USSR for several years, but available evidence indicates it consists of little more than a handful of dissident intellectuals and has not played a role in the local work stoppages that occur periodically in the country. [REDACTED]

The statement by Solidarity has nonetheless drawn a rebuke from the Polish party daily, which called it harmful to Poland's foreign alliances and interference in the internal affairs of friendly countries. [REDACTED]

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East European and Soviet Reaction

Without mentioning the statement, the Soviet media have broadened their assault on Solidarity's congress. Charging that "openly anti-Soviet material" is circulating among the delegates, TASS on Wednesday accused the union of striving to "intensify ties with the capitalist states at the expense of Poland's relations with the socialist countries." [REDACTED]

TASS also stated that participants in the congress are calling for a strengthened private sector, an accusation that may portend a harsh Soviet rejoinder to Solidarity's call for worker self-management. TASS continues to avoid personal attacks on union leader Walesa but now has alleged that the "leading organs of the congress" include representatives of antisocialist groups. [REDACTED]

A commentary in the East German party paper yesterday hinted for the first time that economic aid to Poland might be curtailed unless the Kania regime reins in Solidarity. The same paper earlier expressed exasperation that East Berlin's assistance is going down a "bottomless pit." The latest commentary may be aimed primarily at East German consumers who resent aid to Poland--including a recent shipment of 10,000 tons of meat. It also may signal the beginning of a new pressure campaign against Poland. [REDACTED]